

**HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) NIH Institutes and Centers (IC)
Co-Sponsors
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Focus: Network restructuring.

Concerns/Questions regarding Network Restructuring Plans:

- The difficulty in monitoring the funding that networks allocate to the sites, especially when sites receive funding from multiple networks.
- Who will monitor site performance for the core funding?
 - The basic idea is for each network to plan a site evaluation program, perhaps with assistance from a CRO, and create some leverage in the system to make the sites accountable to the networks. Sites that are performing poorly would be identified, and then the networks would make a recommendation to DAIDS to reduce the amount of core funding or perhaps to phase out those sites.
- The potential for a set of proposals to focus in a particular geographic area that does not correspond to sites that ICs have established (e.g. focus on treatment interventions in Africa versus substance abuse interventions in Asia).
- Lack of clarity around what will be covered by the “core budget.” Need to clearly identify the site staff and define their respective roles.

Recommendations:

- Use a network-focused funding system
- Include IC representation in the membership of Leadership Groups, the Managing Partners, and applicable External Scientific Review Groups and Protocol Teams. Improve IC’s ability to take a leadership position in their scientific area and influence the direction of the science.
- Build in elements (e.g. behavioral research) for networks specializing in a certain area (e.g. microbicide research) without asking the networks to take on more than they can reasonably manage.
- Build in mechanisms that create opportunities for collaboration across network leadership groups.
- Consider incorporating a model similar to what Jeanne McDermott developed for ICORDA and allow for the use of planning grants to help establish new sites.

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